

REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the Final Office Action mailed on January 4, 2006 in which Claims 1-10, 12, 14-20 and 20 3-27 were allowed; in which Claims 11 and 13 were objected to and in which Claims 21 and 22 were rejected. With this response, Claims 21 and 22 are cancelled and Claims 7, 11 and 13 are amended. Claims 1-5 7-15 and 23 -27 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

I. Examiner Interview Summary.

On March 3, 2006, a telephonic interview was held between Examiner Morrison and Applicant's attorney, Todd A. Rathe. The rejections of Claims 21 and 22 were discussed. Although no agreement was reached, Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Morrison for the opportunity to discuss the rejections.

II. Claim Objections.

Paragraph 1 of the Office Action objected to Claims 11 and 13 noting several informalities. In response, Claims 11 and 13 are amended as suggested in the Office Action. In addition, Claim 7 is further amended to correct a minor informality.

III. Rejection of Claims 21-22 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Based Upon Japanese Publication No. 5-77507.

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action rejected Claims 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 5-77507. Claims 21 and 22 are canceled, rendering the rejection moot.

IV. Conclusion.

After amending the claims as set forth above, Claims 1-5, 7-15 and 23-27 are now pending in this application.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 6, 2006

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